

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Page 1 of 4

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by remote participation via Zoom

- **Montague Finance Committee members:** Jen Audley, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, Fred Bowman, Jennifer Waryas, and John Hanold.
- **Absent:** Greg Garrison
- **Montague Selectboard members:** Michael Nelson (arr. 6:10) and Chris Boutwell
- **Absent:** Rich Kuklewicz
- **Others:** Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

The Chair announced that the meeting is being streamed and recorded by the MCTV and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. Ms. Olsen is also recording the meeting. Remote participation for both members and the public was provided by Zoom. The link to the recording is <https://vimeo.com/537081951>.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting of March 31, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve minutes of March 31, 2021.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

### **Updates from Town Administrator and Accountant**

Ms. Olsen has sent the Town Meeting Basics out for comments, expecting that it will be used as a guide for Committee members rather than being distributed more broadly. The Background material has been revised to reduce overlap with the Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting. The Public Hearing April 21 on the opt-out decision on mosquito spraying may lead to a surveillance plan or action at Town Meeting.

Mr. Ellis reported that Town Meeting will be held under a tent on Saturday May 22, 2021, and that there was some interest expressed in a pre-Town Meeting. He also reported that the delay in implementing the School Opportunities Act would result in the seven-year funding cycle being reduced to a six-year cycle, with no decrease in the total.

### **Review of FY 2022 Budget Requests**

#### **Article 3: Creation of Airport Fuel Revolving Fund**

Finance Committee Moved: To support Article 3.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Page 2 of 4

Selectboard Moved: To support Article 3.

Vote: Nelson-Aye, Boutwell-Aye

**Article 4: Schedule I: Wages of Elected Officials**

This Schedule was presented and approved without changes.

Finance Committee Moved: To support Article 4.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support Article 4.

Vote: Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

**Article 5: Schedule II: Wages of Appointed Officials**

This Schedule was presented and approved without changes.

Finance Committee Moved: To support Article 5.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support Article 5.

Vote: Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

**Article 6: Acceptance of Gift of Highland Cemetery & Assets**

This subject was discussed thoroughly in earlier meetings.

Finance Committee Moved: To support Article 6.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support Article 6

Vote: Nelson-Aye, Boutwell-Aye

**Articles on Cannabis Impact Stabilization Fund**

In view of incomplete content on these articles Mr. Hanold recommended deferring a vote until the final content was established. The Committee agreed.

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Page 3 of 4

**Article 26: Montague Tree Revolving Fund**

Discussion occurred concerning co-ordination of this fund and the budget for Department 299 Tree Warden. The conclusion was that this Revolving Fund, under direction of the Tree Warden, would not generate very much revenue. The appropriation for Department 299 would be expended first.

Finance Committee Moved: To support Article 26, creation of Tree Revolving Fund.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Wisnewski-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support Article 26, creation of Tree Revolving Fund

Vote: Nelson-Aye, Boutwell-Aye

**Review Drafts of Annual Town Meeting Materials**

Report to Town Meeting: The latest draft was reviewed and approved, as of the topics settled to date. Mr. Hanold expressed his preference for discussing Education and Enterprise Funds after the Total Expenses pie chart and before the Total Operating Budget pie chart.

Background Information: Ms. Waryas proposed expanding the information regarding enrollment at Turners Falls High School and prospects for more community engagement with the Turners Falls Airport here, but Ms. Audley felt the Report coverage was adequate. The final text will not be approved until after April 26, when the Selectboard is expected to complete final consideration of the Warrant.

**ATFC Webinar “The Meeting Before Town Meeting”**

Ms. Audley reminded Committee members of this broadcast webinar, which will cover meetings some municipalities hold before a regular Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Wisnewski left at 67:3540 PM.

**Topics not Anticipated in the last 48 Hours**

No news was shared.

**Agendas for Future Meetings**

**April 21 – No Meeting**

**April 28** – New Articles on 5<sup>th</sup> Street easement and Mosquito Control District; vote on Cannabis articles.

**May 5 – No Meeting**

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Page 4 of 4

**Adjournment**

Finance Committee Moved: To adjourn at 7:~~00~~40 PM.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye.

Selectboard Moved: To adjourn at 7:~~00~~40 PM

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye

Respectfully submitted by John Hanold

**List of Documents and Exhibits:**

- Schedules I and II
- Airport and Tree Revolving, and Cannabis Impact, Funds
- Drafts of Material for Annual Town Meeting: Glossary, Town Meeting Basics
- Drafts of Material for Annual Town Meeting: Report to Town Meeting, Background Information for Motion